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GENERAL NOTES.

Deaths.—During the last few months astronomy in central Europe has suffered a severe blow through the loss of four persons closely associated with the progress of the science in recent years. The *Astronomische Nachrichten*, No. 4190, contains three obituary notices. In the last number of these *Publications* brief mention was made of the death of Dr. EGON VON OPPOLZER, professor of astronomy at Innsbruck. Dr. OPPOLZER, son of the noted astronomer THEODORE VON OPPOLZER, author of the celebrated “Lehrbuch zur Bahnbestimmung der Kometen und Planeten,” was born in Vienna on October 13, 1869, and died June 15, 1907, being therefore less than thirty-eight years of age. His education was obtained at the universities of Vienna and Munich. For a time he served as an assistant in the observatory at Prague, and in 1901 was made associate professor of astronomy at Innsbruck, and professor in 1906. Dr. OPPOLZER was an enthusiastic investigator, and made many contributions to the science of astronomy along various lines. He made investigations concerning the Earth’s atmosphere and solar phenomena. He was also interested in photography and photometry, and will be remembered as the discoverer of the short-period variability in the brightness of the planet *Eros*. During the last few years Dr. v. OPPOLZER was engrossed in the building and equipping of a new observatory at Innsbruck, nearly the whole cost of which was paid out of his own pocket. The equipment was designed especially for work in spectroscopic and photographic lines, and was almost ready for use when the hand of death intervened to bring to a sudden close the life and work of an ardent searcher for truth.

On June 29th Professor SIEGFRIED CZARPSKI, Director of the Carl Zeiss firm, makers of the celebrated Zeiss lenses and optical instruments, died in Jena at the age of forty-six years. Although not an astronomer by profession, yet Dr. CZARPSKI, through his connection with the optical works and through attendance upon the meetings of the *Astronomische Gesellschaft*, came into contact with many of the astronomers of Europe. When a young man he was a student under HELMHOLTZ, and through the recommendation of that master became

private assistant to Professor ABBE. The balance of his life was spent in Jena. Dr. CZARPSKI's chief contribution to science is a book on geometrical optics, called "Theorie der Optischen Instrumente nach ABBE."

On July 13th Dr. HEINRICH KREUTZ, associate professor of astronomy at the University of Kiel and editor of the *Astronomische Nachrichten*, passed away, after a long illness, at the age of fifty-two years. His preparation for the astronomical profession was obtained at the University of Bonn under the tutorship of SCHÖNFELD and KRUEGER. After further study in Vienna under WEISS and OPPOLZER, he became a computer in the Recheninstitut at Berlin. Dr. KREUTZ soon gave up this position, however, in order to accept the position of observer and computer at the Kiel Observatory when Professor KRUEGER was called there in 1883 to become director of the observatory and editor of the *Astronomische Nachrichten*. In this position KREUTZ became familiar with editorial work, and was naturally chosen to succeed KRUEGER in the editorship of the *Nachrichten* when the latter died, in 1896. The laborious duties of this position were performed with great care, and Professor KREUTZ succeeded in maintaining the high standard previously enjoyed by the *Nachrichten* as the leading astronomical journal of the world. Dr. KREUTZ was especially interested in the investigation of orbits of comets, and carried to completion several very extensive pieces of computation. The most important of these were investigations of the orbits of the comets 1843 I, 1861 II, 1880 I, 1882 II.

Another severe loss to astronomy came through the death on August 13th of Professor HERMANN CARL VOGEL, Director of the Astrophysical Observatory at Potsdam. Dr. VOGEL was the sixth Bruce medalist of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, and reference to his life and work will be found on another page of this number of the *Publications*.

Notes from "Science."—MARY W. WHITNEY, professor of astronomy at Vassar College, and president of the Nantucket Maria Mitchell Association, spent a week lately at the Maria Mitchell Memorial on Nantucket, giving instructive talks to members and their guests on "Maria Mitchell" and on "Recent Discoveries in the Solar System." Professor WHITNEY has appointed a building committee to consider plans for an observ-

atory to house properly an equatorial telescope recently donated to the association. Already the sum of \$2,138 has been subscribed, and the association in charge of the memorial hopes for subscriptions to enable it not only to house the telescope but also to equip the observatory so that it may be available for astronomical classes in the near future.

Sir David Gill's Address.—The presidential address of Sir DAVID GILL, delivered before the annual meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science at Leicester, has been printed in full in *Science* for August 16th. The address is highly interesting and instructive, and should be read by every one interested in astronomy.

Doctor's Degrees.—In *Science* for August 30th there is an article entitled "Doctorates Conferred by American Universities." During the last ten years the degree of Doctor of Philosophy and Doctor of Science (not including honorary degrees) has been conferred upon 2,715 persons, and of these 1,232 were taken in the sciences. Thirty-four degrees have been granted in astronomy, which stands ninth among the twenty sciences enumerated. Three doctorates in astronomy were conferred during the last academic year, as follows: By Columbia University, on ANNE SEWELL YOUNG, "The Stellar Clusters h and χ *Persei*; Measurement and Reduction of the Rutherford Photographs"; by the University of California, on JAMES DAVIS MADDRILL, "A Study of Several Stars of the δ *Cephei* Type"; by the University of Virginia, on FRANK WALKER REED, "Singular Points in the Approximate Development of the Perturbative Function."
